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June 21, 2002

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Art Unit 1761

Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application

Appl. No. 10/050,047; Filed: January 17, 2002

For: Methods of Increasing Hardness of Food Products

Inventors:

Egbert et al.

Our Ref:

1533.1510001/SRL/J-S

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

- 1. Certificate Under 37 C.F.R. § 3.73(b) with copies of Assignments attached;
- 2. Power of Attorney from Assignee; and
- 3. A return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

Commissioner for Patents June 21, 2002 Page 2

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

Sterne, Kessler, Goldstein & Fox P.L.L.C.

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SRL/J-S/tts Enclosures

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